



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Communities

Our ref: CTS 21978/23
Your ref: A1185230

1 William Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 46 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7420
Email agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au

14 December 2023

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 16 November 2023 regarding Petition Number 3975-23 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly and concerning selective native timber harvesting at Deongwar State Forest.

Native timber harvesting in Queensland's State forests must meet the requirements of the *Code of practice for native forest timber production on Queensland's state forest estate 2020* (the 'Code') which is administered and overseen by the Department of Environment and Science. All applicable Queensland environment and heritage laws such as the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, and the Federal Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1992* must also be met.

During selective harvesting operations more than half of the standing forest is retained, including those trees required for habitat or for other purposes under the Code. The Code requires that all regional ecosystems are appropriately managed to ensure their ecological integrity is protected. Ecological processes, health, vitality, and their ability to regenerate and respond to impacts must be maintained.

Further, the Code contains specific protection measures for hollow-dependant fauna, including standard requirements for the retention of habitat and recruitment trees. These requirements reflect the recommendations of the Habitat Tree Technical Advisory Group outlined in the *Managing Habitat Trees in Queensland Forests* report (Lamb et al. 1998).

Under the Native Timber Action Plan, the Queensland Government has committed to ending native timber harvesting in state forests in the South East Queensland Regional Plan area by 31 December 2024, including Deongwar State Forest.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Furner'.

MARK FURNER MP

**Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Communities**